(b) No, Sir.

(c) As on date WISL has to pay a total sum of Rs. 147 lakhs comprising of revised annual licence fee, sundry dues and interest on delayed payments. WISL has to extend two Bank Guarantees amounting to Rs. 345 lakhs as security towards lease rentals and Rs. 8 lakhs (performance guarantee for completion of the project) which have already expired. Out of the dues of Rs. 147 lakhs, WISL has paid Rs. 75 lakhs as part payment and have requested extension in time for payment of balance dues and for extension of Bank Guarantees. The Board of Trustees of Mormugao Port in its meeting held on 25.7.1997 had agreed to extend payment and submission of Bank Guarantee upto 30.8.1997.

Construction of Ship Building Yard near Mormugao Port Trust

1675. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of indiscriminate filling of sea in the name of construction of ship building yard within the jurisdiction of Mormugao Port Trust, which caused water rising in the paddy fields on the opposite side of the bank of river Zuari; and

(b) whether these recommendations are authorised by the MPT and clearance of Environment Ministry has been sought under the CRZ rules?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pitiable condition of National Highways in North Eastern Region

1676. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering launching of some proposals/ projects to improve upon the pitiable condition of the National Highways passing through different States of the North Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The improvement of National Highways is a continuous process. 57 numbers of Road & Bridge projects have been proposed in Annual Plan 1997-98 with an estimated provision of Rs. 146.50 crores for the NE Region. Plan Budget allocations have been enhanced by 28.61% from Rs. 76.08 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 97.85 crores in 1997-98 for NH works in the NE Region including the stretches with Border Roads Organisation for which proposals for development and repair are initiated by Director General (Border Roads). In addition, Rs. 12.44 crores has been allocated for Jogighopa Bridge in Assam as Ministry's share.

(c) Does not arise.

Action Plan for projects under different financing mechanisms

1677. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authroity of India has prepared an action plan to implement a variety of projects under different financing mechanisms during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Build Operate Transfer Scheme has drawn a very poor response from prtivate investors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had prepared a Corporate Plan and had identified the list of projects to be taken up during the 9th Plan Period.